

GETTING TO KNOW
THE KENTUCKY
BOARD OF PHYSICAL
THERAPY



INTRODUCTION

The Kentucky Board of Physical Therapy (KBPT) is the state licensing agency for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants.

We consist of a seven-member board, whose members are appointed by the Governor.

The Board is made up of PTs, PTAs and one public member.

Each member serves a four-year term. The Board also has a full-time staff.

Meetings are held six times per year and are open to the public.

The dates and times are posted on the Board's website.

PURPOSE- PUBLIC PROTECTION



- Ensure credential holders are qualified and competent to practice. The standards required to obtain a PT license or PTA certificate are set forth within our laws and regulations. It is the Board's job to make sure those standards are consistently met.
- Ensure our credential holders comply with the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice. Individuals who fail to comply with professional standards can be disciplined, up to and including revocation of license.
- KBPT interprets and enforces the laws and administrative regulations by investigating complaints and by applying disciplinary measures

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Establishing a task force to review telehealth regulations for physical therapy
- Implementing an online complaint process
- Moving towards online PT and PTA applications and online verification of credentials in 2022
- Establishing a task force regarding sexual boundary complaints (amending regulations)
- Establishing a task force with APTA KY for review PTs ordering imaging
- Continuously top nationally ranked among all state boards of physical therapy in survey of NPTE exam license applicant
- Received the FSBPT Excellence in Regulation Award in 2016 and 2021

COMPACT

The KBPT, in conjunction with the APTA Kentucky, worked diligently to pass compact language in Kentucky's 2017 legislative session. House Bill 227 was signed into law on March 21, 2017, making Kentucky one of the first 10 states in the country to pass Compact legislation. The terms of the Compact became effective in Kentucky once our national criminal background procedure was fully implemented on March 21, 2019.

COMPACT

What the Compact Does - The Physical Therapy Licensure Compact allows licensed physical therapists and physical therapist assistants in one state to practice in another state without having to obtain another license.

How it Works - Rather than obtain an additional license in each state, participating member states will recognize the licenses from other member states as long as the physical therapist's license or physical therapist assistant's certificate is in good standing and is in compliance with the rules and regulations of the state in which she/he is practicing.

Public Protection - The Compact includes mandatory reporting information so that the public and licensing officials can rapidly be notified if any physical therapists or physical therapist assistants have been disciplined for fraud, abuse, etc.

Protections for Military - The Compact makes it easier for physical therapists or physical therapist assistants who are members of the military, or their spouses, to practice physical therapy in other state in active duty.

Greater access to care – people living near state borders will have more access to physical therapy services by physical therapy providers licensed in other states.

Increased choice for consumers – by making it easier for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants to cross state lines, the Compact will increase the choice to consumers and bring competition into the marketplace

Increased business opportunities for physical therapy providers – by eliminating barriers to licensure, physical therapists and physical therapist assistants both inside and outside the Commonwealth can more cost effectively expand their business to provide services to patients across state lines.

BOARD'S ROLE

The Board's role is public protection. The Board credentials PTs and PTAs to ensure minimum standards in the Commonwealth. This ensures every PT or PTA in KY has the appropriate training, education and expertise to practice in the Commonwealth, the licensing process also looks at disciplinary actions in other jurisdictions, and potential criminal convictions that could relate to the practice of PT.

The Board interprets the statutes and regulations. Every meeting the Board reviews and answers questions from PTs and PTAs throughout the Commonwealth. Most questions asked of the Board can be answered quickly by Board staff. The Board will publish FAQs to address growing trends, give direction to PTs or PTAs, or assist PTs and PTAs in patient protection.

JURISPRUDENCE EXAM



- All PTs and PTAs are required to complete the most up-to-date JE between April 1, 2021, and March 31, 2023. There are No Exceptions!
- The JE is a free, online, 20 questions exam
- The Board creates a new JE every 2 years. The questions address changes in the statutes and regulations or growing trends in disciplinary action
- The goal of the JE is not just another hurdle but to get PTs and PTAs entering the Commonwealth up to speed on the differences in practice in KY as well as educate credential holders of changes in the Practice Act

COMPLAINTS

A major component of public protection for the KBPT is investigating complaints submitted to the Board

The Board receives anywhere from 50-150 complaints a year that we investigate

The Board's job is not to "take your license," the Board investigates potential complaints, if a violation is discovered the Board focuses on remediation to ensure the credential holder continues to Practice and the issue discovered does not reoccur

As credentialed PTs and PTAs you are required under regulation to report any potential violations to the Board

Through Public Protection we enhance the profession

GROWING TRENDS

Boundary Complaints

- Social Media blurring lines

Fraud and Material Deception

- PTs and PTAs are responsible for billing of PT services

Supervision

- 4 PTAs or supportive personnel
- Cautiously move to a different building everyday

Documentation

- The PT of record is responsible for the PT POC for a patient.

IMPAIRMENT

IPTPC, the Board's Impaired Practitioner Program, is a confidential program for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants who abuse alcohol or other impairing substances

Addiction affects a significant percentage of the adult population. Healthcare professionals often buy into the myth that they should be able to handle addiction issues on their own. However, this disease is chronic and progressive and rarely gets better without outside intervention

IPTPC offers physical therapists and physical therapist assistants individualized program agreements for recovery. Requests for information and/or assistance are confidential and are not reported to the Board. Participation is voluntary and anonymous as long as the participant is compliant with the terms of the program agreement

If you or someone you work with is struggling with symptoms of impairment, please contact IPTPC

IMPAIRMENT

Work Habits – Misses work or is frequently tardy due to illness or oversleeping; doesn't keep scheduled appointments; submits reports or assignments late; has an unacceptable error rate

Emotions – Becomes irritable, defensive, jealous, easily angered, depressed, or moody. These behaviors may affect personal and professional relationships, leading to social withdrawal

Observations – Smells of alcohol or appears to need drugs or alcohol to “jumpstart” the day; is observed taking drugs or exhibits inappropriate behavior with patients

Personal Care – Deteriorating personal hygiene

Defensive – Becomes angry if someone mentions their drinking, use of drugs or emotional instability; frequently feels guilty about the use of drugs or alcohol

Negative Consequences and Continued Use – Legal, personal, or professional consequences as a result of alcohol or drug use. Despite these problems the individual continues to use

KBPT VS. APTA-KY

KBPT

Board Members: Appointed by the Governor

Mission: Protects the Public by Ensuring Credential Holders are Qualified and Competent to Practice Safely

Regulates the Practice of Physical Therapy

Issues, Renews and Reinstates PT Licenses and PTA Certificates

Interprets and Enforces the Laws and Regulations, Investigates Complaints, and Orders Disciplinary Action, as warranted

Ensures Compliance with Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice, Supervision, and Documentation

Conducts Audits to Ensure Compliance with Continuing Competence Requirements

Serves as a Member Board of the National Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT)

Call (502) 429-7140 or email kypbt@ky.gov for information

American Physical Therapy Association – KY Chapter

Board of Directors: Elected by APTA-KY Membership

Mission: Lead, Educate, Mentor, and Respond to the Needs and Interests of its Membership

Advocates and Lobbies for Advances to the Practice and Profession through the Legislative Process

Promotes the Membership by Providing Personalized Services and Benefits

Emphasizes Statewide Public Relations Efforts and Develops District Level Programming to Increase the Benefits and the Public's Knowledge of Physical Therapy

Reviews and Approves Continuing Competency Courses for Host Sponsors and Individual Attendees

Is a state chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)

Call (859) 977-7455 or email info@aptaky.org for information